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NEWS RELEASE

Immediate Release

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Award winning researcher speaking at upcoming Ontario Goat AGM

Results of innovative goat research project to be discussed

Guelph, ON – Ontario Goat (OG) is pleased to announce that award winning researcher and Ph.D. student from the University of British Columbia, Gosia Zobel will present twice during this year's Annual General Meeting and Producer Education Day. The event is scheduled to take place on February 25th at the Tavistock Memorial Hall.

Ontario's dairy goat producers took part in North America's first research project focussing on dairy goat welfare. Headed by Gosia Zobel, this project was a joint effort from the University of British Columbia and the University of Guelph. Gosia will discuss the management practices found in a province-wide survey, and will show some of the key findings from the detailed on-farm study involving 10 Southern Ontario dairy goat producers. From here, she will provide examples from her research and describe how the results can be used to develop science-based on-farm improvements.

Additionally, Gosia will also present on the importance of continued health and welfare research in the dairy goat industry. Beginning with an overview of some of the key issues faced in the dairy cow industry, Gosia will demonstrate that the dairy goat industry is in a unique, proactive position to guide research to prevent similar issues.

"We are very excited to have Gosia joining us. It will be an excellent opportunity for producers to learn more about the challenges and opportunities that are directly affecting the goat industry," says Jennifer Haley, OG Executive Director. "Gosia is a dynamic speaker and very passionate about her research, particularly in goats. We are pleased that she will be sharing her findings with us that will also help the industry prioritize our next steps in research," added Haley.

Other topics to be discussed that will impact meat, dairy and fibre goat producers include:

- Ethnic meat market study discussion and findings
- Animal identification and traceability in the goat industry

The event, which runs from 10:00am to 3:00pm, also features a trade show and buffet luncheon. Pre-registration is required for this event. For more information or to register, please contact the OG office at 519-824-2942, toll free at 1-866-311-6422 or by email at info@livestockalliance.ca. For more information about Ontario Goat, please visit www.ontariogoat.ca

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